Draft Minutes
MAGIC Meeting
June 6, 2007, 2:00-4:00
NSF, Room 1150

Attendance:

Greg Farber	NIH	FarberG@mail.nih.gov
Andy Hookwave	HP	
Ken Klingenstein	Internet2	kjk@internet2.edu
Mark Luker	Educause	mluker@educause.edu
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Kevin Thompson	NSF	kthompso@nsf.gov
Stephen Torri	NCO	torri@nitrd.gov

Proceedings:

This meeting of MAGIC was chaired by Kevin Thompson of the NSF. Greg Farber of the NIH, National Center for Research Resources, gave a briefing on the Biomedical Informatics Research Network (BIRN).

BIRN

The mission of BIRN is to provide a shared bioinformatics infrastructure (transparent Grid computing) to foster understanding and treatment of disease. It supports collaboration between groups with different expertise and resources. It provides open access and dissemination of data and tools.

BIRN consists of four components: a Coordination Center (Mark Ellisman), a morphometry function for brain structure (Bruce Rosen), a Function piece for functional analysis (Steven Potkin), and a mouse BIRN for high resolution imaging and animal models (Arthur Toga). BIRN provided $16 M in funding for FY 2007. BIRN is managed with one program officer for all four components and is implemented through cooperative grants.

BIRN users consist of:

- Researchers with a limited amount of data to share with the community
- Researchers with substantial imaging data or tools to make available to the community
- Researchers outside of imaging but who needs infrastructure to share tools and/or data.

BIRN has been used by the NIH Center for Information Technology to federate data in the National Database for Autism Research (NDAR). Version 1.0 of NDAR is currently available to researchers.

BIRN provides an infrastructure to enable broad collaborations. It provides hardware, software and middleware for the researchers. Initially BIRN used identical hardware to facilitate interoperability. The BIRN Coordination Center manages the software footprint. NSF infrastructure, including TeraGrid and OSG, is used to link the BIRN infrastructure. The infrastructure enables analysis of distributed biomedical data in a national-scale production facility.

BIRN software is released two times a year. BIRN datasets are growing fast and currently include 21 Terabytes of data. The data must be deidentified to maintain privacy and security. MRI scans are calibrated under a common acquisition protocol to enable comparison of data across data sets.

In the next few months NIH is going to release program announcements for data and tool federation and for data ontologies. NIH is also working with the NSF for a program announcement to make the heterogeneous BIRN data available to those testing new approaches to data mediation.

Standards are currently being developed on an ad hoc basis, not through a standards organization.

The complete BIRN briefing may be obtained on the MAGIC Web site.

Shibboleth

Google is supporting Shibboleth now and Microsoft is discussing enfolding Shibboleth. There is an international meeting on Shibboleth in early September (to be arranged) to talk about international federation for peering. Most participants are expected to be from the U.S.

There is an October meeting in the Washington, DC area on scientific workflow to create industrial components and a consistent execution model.

Next MAGIC Meetings:

July 4: MAGIC members will be notified of the new date
August 1, 2:00-4:00, NSF, Room 1150